

CLASS STRUGGLE ANARCHISM

THE CLASS SYSTEM

We live in a bitterly divided class society. It consists of the working class, the middle class and the ruling class. The working class, who comprise the vast majority of the population, are forced to sell their labor and brains to meet their basic needs: food, housing, clothing, etc. The wages we earn are but a mere fraction of what we produce for the bosses and the ruling class. Workers may each be able to make 20 or 30 video recorders a week, but their wages will only allow them to buy one, if even that! This is one example of capitalism. We produce the wealth, not for ourselves, but for the ruling class who "re-invest" this wealth back into the banks, machinery, raw materials, etc.; and ultimately into the luxurious lifestyles they are able to lead. This keeps the cycle of capitalism rolling - always to the benefit of the rich. This tiny elite, the ruling class, made up of the most revolting bloodsuckers such as politicians, church leaders, freemasons, managing directors, top cops, generals, etc., own and control everything. They have the money, the land and the power. THE WEALTHIEST 1% HAVE AS MUCH INCOME AS THE BOTTOM 40%. The State - government, ministries, police, army, schools, prisons, media, mental homes, etc. - though it may occasionally work against capitalism, keeps this process in order, and crushes those who dare to resist. We cannot expect real change to come through Congress, just as we cannot expect real justice through the courts. These institutions were set up and the rules made by the ruling class, to protect their own interests and control working class anger.

DIVIDE AND RULE

What the capitalists fear most is the working class uniting against them. To prevent this they erect artificial barriers, and deliberately foster ideas based on ignorance (such as racism and sexism). When it comes to lack of housing we are told to blame the Asian family on the corner, not the capitalist who owns 3 or 4 houses, each costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. When companies sack workers, and unemployment rises, we're told to blame blacks, wimmin workers, immigrants or the unions - not the bosses, who can

overnight fire thousands of people. White against Black, Men against Wimin, Heterosexuals against Gays, Jewish against Christian, Mets fans against Yankees fans...all barriers created to divide us, and maintain their profits.

NOTHING TO LOSE!

One of our first tasks as class struggle anarchists is to expose these false divisions, mystifications, and lies that prevent the poor and working class from uniting and struggling together. We encourage and participate in working class struggles and strive to see anarchist ideas and tactics accepted and used by those involved, and argue for solidarity within the working class. We urge those involved in struggle to take control of their own fight directly, & as such are strongly opposed to all those groups, parties and organizations who dare to think they can lead the working class. History has proven, time and time again, that the most successful actions the working class have done are when it has worked by itself, without the "help" of trade union bureaucrats, the vanguards, the parties, etc. The working class must see through and smash all obstacles strewn in its path to revolution by the trade union bosses, congress people and the leftist student elite. It can only do this by constant day to day class struggle.



GOT NO CLASS?

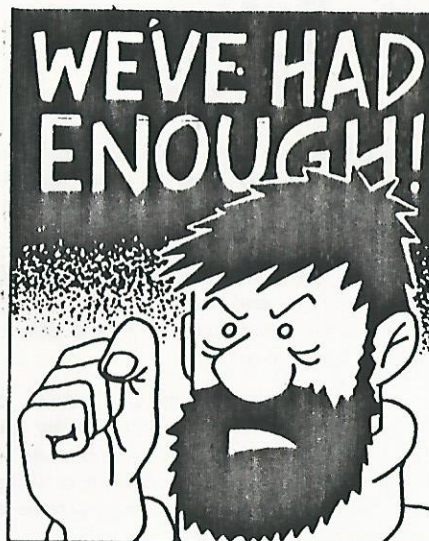
Attempts have been made to say that class is a

thing of the past. Read a copy of THE POST and you'll see such trash as "We're All Middle Class Now", apparently because we own a VCR, or color TV. We may now be able to afford a video recorder, after slaving away in a crummy office or stinking factory for years, but the power and wealth always stays firmly in the hands of the capitalists. The mystification and deliberate attempt at confusing class is vital to the rich elite.

AS ANARCHISTS...

Regardless of whether we're on welfare, working, or running the home we are united by the fact that we have to struggle to survive at the bottom-end of the capitalist system. We have lots to gain and little to lose by a revolution. It might seem crazy or cliched to talk of revolt, but it's much more ridiculous to carry on as we are. Because of our position in society, only the working class can be the revolutionary class. The working class has created all material wealth in this world. It's our labor that built the homes, hospitals, roads, etc. It's our work that brings in the food from the countryside, and it's our brains that have created all the socially useful objects and machines. WE BUILT THIS WORLD! Why do we allow the capitalist ruling class to steal it all from us? It's our world, we can run it, we can organize without them; without the rich parasites and their protectors, the police and army.

THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TODAY HAS MORE TO DO WITH CONTROLLING WORKERS, THAN IT HAS TO DO WITH WORKERS CONTROL...



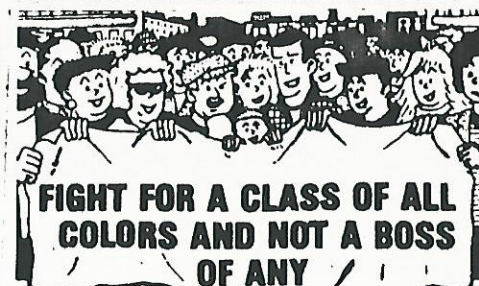
FIGHT BACK!

Asked nicely, the rich will never give up their stolen, spoilt lives. We would be crazy to expect them to. Millions of people around the world are not only fed up, they're fighting back. From East Germany to East New York, from Soweto to the South Bronx, we're sick of being ripped off and pushed about! Fight for a world without bosses and without leaders, whatever flag they choose to wave.

ANARCHISM (BRIEFLY)

Anarchism is revolutionary, anti-state autonomism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the power of the ruling elite, and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over our industries and communities, and changing them to meet the needs of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover, we can struggle within capitalism, but never replace it. Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist-Leninists), and all will have their part to play in shaping it. Power will lie within the federations and organizations created by and for the revolution, not with political parties who will try to dominate and destroy them. The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite. Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of new, locally based federal organizations, plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go all the way. There is no truce in a class war. The answer to ruling class power is continual widening struggle - for social revolution and anarchism.

This flier was originally produced by a British Anarchist group, and was revised (Americanised?) by the New York Anarchist Youth Federation, which is a class-struggle youth network. For more information, and/or to get involved write to: P.O. BOX 365, CANAL ST. STATION NYC 10013-0365 U.S.A. or call (212) 925-2306 (ext.13#)



What is Anarchism?

A really, really, really brief introduction...

Reduced to it's most basic components, anarchism is a non-hierarchical and non-coercive way of living together.

Hierarchy is the stratification of how we relate to each other. It begins with the parent/child relationship, moves to the teacher/student relationship, and then becomes the boss/worker relationship. Along the way are the relationships of priest and flock, cop and citizen, army and nation. The discrimination against women by men, against blacks by whites, and against children by everyone are examples of how hierarchy works. Society would have us believe that without the ladder of control we could not live together. We get told what to do, we tell others what to do and things get done. We're told that without authority there would be chaos. But letting go of authority is not abandoning responsibility: it is just the opposite, because we must then become responsible for ourselves. No more following orders we know are wrong: no more punishing others under the guise of having their best interests in mind. Think about how you and your friends have worked together without a leader to achieve a goal. That is anarchy. There is nothing that can't be done by all of us working together rather than what is now done by hierarchies. Some say that anarchy could never work. But obviously hierarchy isn't working and never has. It's time for a change.

**DO NOT FOLLOW
FOR I WILL NOT LEAD
DO NOT LEAD FOR I
WILL NOT FOLLOW**

Coercion is the use of force to achieve goals. People with a stunted perspective of life use violence and the threat of violence to get their way. As we grow we learn that nothing achieved at the expense of others is worth having, and that we cannot push on others what we would not have done to ourselves. None of us can decide how others should live or what opportunities they should be given, not even if we pretend to know what's best for them. Coercion is what turns bigotry into violence.



It is possible to apply these two aspects of anarchism to any level of your life. For anarchism to exist it must be practiced in every way.

In the family all members should share responsibilities and rewards to the best of their abilities. All should be free to join or leave a family at will.

At work, the means and results of production should be controlled by the workers, not the bosses. There should be no penalty for those who cannot or chose not to work, which is the role of poverty in our society.

In religion, we must recognize that the

highest authority we must answer to is our own concept of what is right. Threats of divine retribution in this or some "next" life should be abandoned as the control mechanism they are.

Environmentally we must be sensitive to the needs of the land and all that live here rather than abuse our power for a quick profit.



We must do away with the idea that some teach and others learn. We should give all opportunity to explore themselves and our world, and never force knowledge on anyone.

None of us can claim superiority due to our color, sex, age, language, sexuality or use any other bigotry that poisons the world. The violence of discrimination must be uprooted in each of us.

Despite the comforting illusion of the ballot box, the government (all government) does not serve the needs of the people it controls. Governments serve themselves, and rule with the threats of police, army and prison. Temporary unions of concerned individuals can build bridges, provide disaster relief, stage festivals or perform any other function a community might need without creating a government.

As long as property exists there will be the hierarchy of the haves and the have-nots.

In an anarchist society the means of production (and everything else) would be shared. No more property means no more theft!

When you apply anarchism to your life and the society around you there are logical results that can be measured and predicted. For example, the abolition of government will result in the end of war. As families are formed around love rather than possessiveness there will no more divorce or marriage.

Anarchism is not an event but a process. There will be no single giant anarchist revolution, where a specific day or place can be marked as before or after anarchy. The anarchist revolution is underway now. Anarchism is a way of living each of us applies to our lives by rejecting hierarchy and coercion in our friendships, family life, work, religion, society and every other possible way. Practicing anarchism can mean alienation from a society based on hierarchy and coercion, even to the point of imprisonment and death. The degree of anarchism we live is the degree that anarchism exists or ever could exist. What we need to work towards is a world where it is safe to be an anarchist: a world of trust and love!

This flier was originally written by the Knoxville Anarchist Black Cross, an anarchist/class struggle prisoner support group. It has been edited, and laid out in it's present form by the New York Anarchist Youth Federation, a class-struggle youth collective dedicating to changing the world and getting free beer. For further information from either group, send an S.A.S.E. to their below address:

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